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Summary record of the 6th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Wednesday, 10 November 2004, at 10.35 a.m.

Chairman: Mr. Ping (President of the General Assembly) ..... (Gabon)

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The meeting was called to order at 10.35 a.m.

Organization of the fifty-ninth regular session of the General Assembly, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items (*continued*)

Request for the inclusion of an additional sub-item submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal (A/59/238)

1. **The Chairman** invited the Committee to consider a request submitted by Afghanistan, Costa Rica, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Nepal for the inclusion in the agenda of the fifty-ninth session of the General Assembly of an additional sub-item entitled "Rendering assistance to the poor mountain countries to overcome obstacles in socio-economic and ecological areas", contained in document A/59/238. The representative of Kyrgyzstan had asked to address the Committee in accordance with rule 43 of the rules of procedure.

2. *At the invitation of the Chairman, Mr. Jeenbaev (Kyrgyzstan) took a place at the Committee table.*

3. **Mr. Jeenbaev** (Kyrgyzstan), introducing document A/59/238, said that poor mountain countries truly were in a special situation and that resolving their problems would require the most urgent measures. The socio-economic and ecological problems of those countries were a very serious challenge for them and for the entire international community. Mountain regions were particularly susceptible to natural disasters, which caused irreparable damage. He wished to focus the international community's attention on the need to combat poverty in mountain regions. Indeed, it was a source of many ills and tragedies, as well as a very serious obstacle to sustainable economic development. The inclusion of the additional sub-item in the agenda would greatly contribute to the economic advancement and social well-being of the peoples of poor mountain countries.

4. **Mr. Thomson** (United Kingdom) said that his delegation supported sustainable development and recognized the importance of overcoming poverty and addressing ecological challenges in poor mountain countries. However, the Organization had devoted considerable efforts in the course of the previous session towards revitalizing the General Assembly's agenda. Modest progress had been made in combining some items and in biennializing and triennializing others. While his delegation supported more frequent meetings of the Committee with a view to adding dynamism to the reform and revitalization process of the General Assembly, it was concerned that such meetings were being used not so much to streamline the Assembly's work but rather to expand it and to unpick agreements reached at the previous Assembly about the agenda and to separate items that had been scheduled for joint debate.

5. The current proposal to add a sub-item to item 88 was made under rule 15, which required that the subject matter be important and urgent. While he understood the matter's importance, he wondered why it had not been urgent two months previously when the Committee had considered the agenda for the current session of the Assembly. Since the proposal had come to his delegation's attention only the previous day, he suggested that the Committee should defer consideration of the matter to its next meeting. That would allow all members of the Committee to give the point further consideration, against the background of the Committee's efforts to streamline the Assembly's agenda.

6. **Mr. Duclos** (France) said that, while the issue raised by Kyrgyzstan was a very important one, the Committee had to bear in mind the efficiency of the work of the General Assembly and the need to respect the rules that the Assembly itself had approved. He therefore endorsed the United Kingdom proposal to defer consideration of the issue to a future meeting of the Committee.

7. **Mr. Cools** (Belgium) said that, like the two previous speakers, his delegation would need more time to consider the matter in order to ensure that whatever action was taken by the Committee would be consistent with the decisions taken at the previous session of the Assembly.

8. *The Committee decided to defer consideration of the request to include an additional sub-item in the agenda of the current session of the General Assembly to a future meeting.*

The meeting rose at 10.50 a.m.